



MARK GOTTLIEB

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

**Testimony of Representative Mark Gottlieb
Assembly Bill 85
Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs
March 10, 2009**

Thank you Chairperson Berceau and members of the committee for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today on Assembly Bill 85, relating to temporary alcohol beverage retail licenses.

Current law allows certain non-profit clubs, fair associations, churches, lodges, veterans' organizations, and similar organizations to obtain an unlimited number of temporary licenses to sell beer at picnics, concerts, and other events. Temporary licenses to sell wine, on the other hand, are limited under current law to two per year per organization. Assembly Bill 85 would increase the limit to ten.

Many non-profit organizations host more than two public events per year, which creates a problem if they wish to sell wine at their events. For example, Cedarburg Music Festivals Ltd., which is a non-profit organization in my district, and represented today by one of my constituents, Steve Shapson, hosts Friday night concerts for the general public throughout July and August in Cedar Creek Park in Cedarburg. This is a wonderful family-friendly event to attend, but limiting their ability to sell wine seriously hinders their ability to raise money to keep the event going year after year.

I believe Assembly Bill 85 is a reasonable approach to resolving a problem that I'm sure other non-profit organizations face across Wisconsin that hold similar events on more than two occasions each year.

I want to thank the Chair and committee for holding this hearing, and I ask that you take executive action on this important bill in the near future.

Thank you.

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